



PRESERVATION IN PROGRESS

Vol. VI, No. 1

January 2001

2000 Year End Report *Sustaining Communities: Putting Virginia's History to Work*

Wonderful things happen when communities take stock of their historic resources and put them to work for public benefit: for Montgomery County, it means reclaiming the heritage of an entire region. For Richmond, it means turning an abandoned school into a state-of-the-art Governor's School. For Roanoke, it means fueling economic development with a \$22 million rehab project. For the Shenandoah Valley, it means creating a major tourism asset from a key theater of conflict in the Civil War. For Tidewater, it means teaching adults and children about their local heritage from some of the most recent archaeological findings.

Communities throughout Virginia are using preservation approaches to build civic pride, revitalize downtowns, spur economic development, generate tourism, and educate residents and children about their local heritage. Communities do this in part by taking stock of the historic resources they have, identifying the most significant among them, adding them as integral elements in long-term planning, rehabilitating them using tax credits, and interpreting them for education and tourism. Each step



Members of Engine Company No. 9 and Associates chose a highway marker to commemorate their heritage.

calls for many levels of partnership, consensus, and commitment. The result is a community-wide process of input and inclusion that yields a focused vision for the future and a citizenry excited and contributing to that future.

Through a broad range of services, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources helps communities help themselves. The results are exponential: through partnering and leveraging, communities accomplish thousands of times more than what one state agency could do alone. As you will see in the report that follows, requests for preservation programs and services are increasing as citizens understand that we have the opportunity today to ensure a vital Virginia for tomorrow.

In This Issue:

- Facts and Figures
- Tax Credit Rehabilitations in Richmond & Roanoke
- Communities Develop Travel & Learning Experiences
- Teachers Spark Excitement with Archaeology
- Revitalization Brings Life to Virginia Downtowns
- Localities Sustain Resources for Community Benefit
- Toolbox Leaders Inform Their Communities

2000 Facts & Figures

Cost Share Program

- § Contracts awarded: 18—up 125% over 1995*
- § Total value of projects: \$257,727 (2000–2001)
\$177,810 (2001–2002)

Virginia Landmarks Register

New listings: 53—up 52% over 1993

Tax Act Programs

- § Applications: 105—up 200% over 1996
- § Completed Projects: 50
- § Rehabilitation Expenditures: \$113,708,500

Certified Local Governments

- § Total CLGs: 24
- § Grants managed: 11
- § Matching grants for 2000–2001: 6 for \$65,926

State Grants

- § Historic preservation grants monitored: 103—up 930% over 1993
- § Non-preservation grants monitored: 165—first year of administration

Easements

New easements: 24—up 242% over 1994

Project Review

- § Projects reviewed: 3,093
- § Programmatic agreements signed: 5

Highway Markers

New and replacement markers: 138—500% increase as compared to 1993

Archives

- § Visitors: 1,452
- § Off-site inquiries: 1,858
- § Total requests: 3,310—up 153% over 1997
- § Properties added to the state inventory: 6,304
- § Archeological & architectural records digitized: 31,873

Archaeology

- § Collections accessioned: 27
- § Collections loaned: 21

** Note: Comparisons are based on years from which the programs cited changed in service delivery, administration, or funding.*

Localities Served

Cost Share: 38	Easements: 24
Register: 33	CLGs: 24
Tax Act: 31	Highway Markers: 65

Archaeological Threatened Sites Program

14 projects, representing all regions of the state

Community Awareness Campaign

60 toolboxes distributed to Main Street communities, APVA branches, Certified Local Governments

TimeTravelers

- § Participating Museums: 250
- § Students: 2,803—generating 16,818 museum visits
- § Web site visitors: 45,000

Audiences Reached

- § Newsletter and *Notes on Virginia*: 6,000
- § Media coverage: 2,371,742
- § Presentations & workshops: 166 reaching 9,589
- § Public Meetings: 34 reaching 1,101

Publications Distributed

- § Guidance and technical assistance: 3,000
- § *Virginia Landmarks Register*: 508
- § *Virginia Landmarks of Black History*: 210
- § *First People*: 899
- § *Guide to Virginia's Highway Markers*: 1,072

Did You Know?

- Every million dollars spent rehabilitating historic sites creates 29.8 new jobs and generates \$779,800 in household income
- That is 3.4 more jobs and \$53,000 more income than created by \$1 million in new construction
- Each year 275 historic attractions in Virginia generate more than 6.5 million visits
- Visitors to historic sites stay longer and spend 2.5 more money than the average tourist

Tax Credit Rehabilitations in Richmond & Roanoke

Historic rehabilitations, driven by tax credits, are turning vacant buildings into community assets around Virginia. In 2000, 15 developers and investors used state and federal tax credits to make large-scale rehabilitations economically feasible, and communities are reaping the benefits. Developers are converting schools into apartments, restoring theaters, and reusing factories as restaurants. These rehabilitations maintain community character and charm, create attractive downtown housing, energize revitalization, and help conserve open space.

In Richmond

Knowing the appeal of attractive architecture, developer Robin Miller began rehabilitating historic buildings, listed on the state and national registers, in downtown Richmond in 1995. “I took a leap of faith that Richmond would follow the national trend of increasing population in downtown urban areas,” Miller said. It worked. His First and Grace apartments rented at market value in an economically depressed area, fueling nearby revitalization.

Historic rehabilitations are more than investments in individual buildings, they are investments in neighborhoods and cities. Creating housing downtown has what Miller deems a “snowball effect.” He explained: “People living in well-rehabilitated buildings, paying market-rate rent, have disposable income. The shops, restaurants, and dry cleaners will follow.” This has proven true in Monroe Ward, which was economically depressed when Miller rehabilitated First and Grace. “Because success was demonstrated, other developers have invested in the area, and I expect to see continued growth.”

Following that success, Miller next tackled the Linden Tower Medical Arts Building, Kensington Court (a former nursing home), and the Syndor & Hundley Furniture Store. “I chose these buildings because they were white elephants. They were functionally obsolete for their locations,” Miller said. “I changed the function into apartments and they are now lovely historic buildings that are economically viable for the owner, neighborhood, city, and state.”

Architectural appeal is not the only reason for the economic success of the rehabs. “None of the projects would have been possible without the federal and state tax credits and the city of Richmond’s real estate tax abatement program,” Miller said. The federal and state

incentives—applicable only to historic properties listed on or contributing to historic districts on the state and national registers—can be combined for a 45% income tax credit; and the tax abatement program curbs property tax increases. The tax credits enabled Miller’s successful rehabs to create four viable assets for Richmond.

Putting Virginia's History to Work

First and Grace, Linden Tower, Kensington Court, Syndor and Hundley

- Reused four empty and decaying buildings
- Invested more than \$17 million in historic rehabilitations
- Created upscale apartments downtown
- Helped revitalize Monroe Ward and downtown

Roanoke Higher Education Center

- Reused vacant railway office building
- Invested \$22 million in the historic rehabilitation
- Created continuing education center to house 16 institutions and 20,000 students

Results triggered by:
DHR state and national registers, survey, state and federal tax credits, staff technical assistance

Another major tax credit project in Richmond is the Maggie L. Walker High School rehabilitation scheduled for completion in August 2001. Maggie Walker, daughter of a former slave, was the first American woman to establish and head a bank, the oldest black-owned bank in continuous use in the United States. Her civic and charitable work, combined with her charisma, helped energize citizens of Jackson Ward during one of its most fruitful periods. The estimated \$24 million rehab will create a home for the Governor’s School for Government and International Studies. “Community for us means providing access and opportunities for community use . . . especially in the Carver and Jackson Ward areas,” said Paul Tiscornia, school director. Tax credits will provide one-third of the necessary funding for the project. The rehab team learned the ropes in its successful rehabilitation of the Appomattox Governor’s School in Petersburg.

In Roanoke

Tax credits are energizing large-scale rehabilitations in Roanoke. In August, the doors to the new Roanoke Higher Education Center opened to 2,500 students. The building,

formerly a Norfolk & Western Railway Company office, now houses 16 educational institutions. Because of its size, structure, and eligibility for the state and federal tax credits, the building was a perfect fit for the project.

“Without the tax credits, the project would not have happened. They are the number one reason people rehabilitate historic buildings for large projects. You get 45 cents on the dollar,” said Mark McConnell, of Spectrum Design, the firm that rehabbed the building. The tax credits provided a critical incentive making the \$22 million rehabilitation feasible, which created hundreds of jobs and poured millions into the local economy. Eligibility for the tax credits required creative partnerships between nonprofit and private organizations and received full community support.



Roanoke Higher Education Center.

McConnell attributes much of the project’s success to the building itself. “Historic buildings give more back to the community than new buildings. They provide a sense of connectedness as well as loyalty to see them remain.” The project produced a win-win situation that filled the need for an educational facility while using a building important to the community’s history and identity.

Several more projects are being considered because Roanoke is nominating a downtown historic district to the state and national registers. “The buildings would remain empty if they were not going to be in the historic district,” McConnell said.

The Roanoke community also awaits the opening of Jefferson Center Shafman Performance Hall in Roanoke slated for May 2001. A former auditorium of a 1920s school, the performance hall will house a state-of-the-art theater to be used by the Roanoke Ballet and Symphony. The \$8.4 million rehabilitation, made possible by the federal and state tax credits, will further economic development in the area.

—*Katherine Harding*

Communities Develop Travel and Learning Experiences

Montgomery County, Winchester, and Stephens City—these are just a few communities using DHR programs to reclaim their local and regional heritage, develop authentic travel and learning experiences for area residents and visitors, and extend their tourism appeal.

Archaeological investigations completed in 2000 by the department’s Roanoke regional office staff supported local efforts to commemorate and interpret the industrial heritage of southwest Virginia. Montgomery County’s 31-acre Coal Mining Heritage Education Park will tell the story of the coal-mining families who lived there over the past 100 years. The outdoor museum will combine both history and the environment. “Merrimac, or Price Mountain, was one of two of the largest sites for coal mining in the area,” said Robert Freis, founder of the Coal

Montgomery County Coal Mining Heritage Education Park

- Creating 5 jobs for the county
- Educating 123,000 area school children about heritage
- Attracting out-of-county and out-of-state users (17%)
- Turning around a neglected brownfield area
- Raising community awareness of site’s importance
- Rekindling civic pride; part of whole county reclaiming its heritage
- Joining in new community partnerships affecting the entire region

Results triggered by:

DHR state and national register, archaeological survey, and technical assistance programs.

Mining Heritage Association. “The county has a rich history of great value that, through rapid and dramatic shifts, was in danger of being lost.” Using an applied anthropology class project as a focal point, Dr. Mary La Lone of Radford University formed a partnership among the mining association, the Montgomery County Planning Office, the DHR Roanoke office, local and state governments, and local preservation organizations to develop the heritage education park. The park is linked to nearby communities along the recreational Huckleberry Rails to Trails project. Results of a DHR archaeological identification survey guided completion of the trail and helped shape development plans for the park. Public outreach excavations conducted by the Roanoke staff highlighted the park’s dedication ceremony, attended by 900 community members.



The Ashburns at the University of Virginia.

As a long-standing member of the TimeTravelers program, Winchester’s George Washington’s Office Museum continues to see a high level of visitation. “TimeTravelers is one of the most worthwhile programs that we do for children,” said Executive Director Cissy Shull. This year, TimeTravelers received a Governor’s Partnership in Education Award for harnessing the historic and cultural resources of museums and historic sites to make learning fun for children and their families. “TimeTravelers gives us a broader reach to all children of Virginia,” said Shull. Both Virginia and out-of-state families enjoy the passport program. In September, six members of the Ashburn family of Tallahassee, Florida, toured the state for 10 days with a laptop computer and digital camera, entering daily reports of their adventures onto the TimeTravelers Web site.

TimeTravelers and other visitors on their way to the George Washington’s Office Museum are first apprised of the site by the historic highway marker on Route 11. The marker is one of 10 in the Winchester area alerting travelers to the history along the city’s roadways. The state highway marker program, now in its 73rd year, is gearing up for 2007, the 400th anniversary of Jamestown and the nation’s beginnings. The program is seeking funding to

bridge the gaps in Virginia’s roadside history, replace outdated and missing markers, and add two new 2007-related markers per county, independent city, and state-recognized Virginia Indian tribe.

In addition to attracting visitors through the TimeTravelers program and the historic highway marker, this year George Washington’s Office Museum expanded its tourism reach in yet another way. It gained the support of 25 volunteers and \$2,500 from Winchester and the Winchester–Frederick County Historical Society as a DHR Threatened Sites project. The Threatened Sites Program provides funds and staff for the archaeological excavation of significant sites being destroyed by natural or man-made causes. “Press coverage made people fascinated with what was going on,” said Shull. “So much so that for our 50th anniversary celebration, we were expecting 75 people, and 500 showed up.” In addition to completing an archaeological excavation at the historic site, the museum has targeted some remaining monies to print a booklet about the history of the office.

Funding for another Threatened Sites project came in the amount of \$5,000 from the Stone House Foundation in Stephens City for an archaeological study and a popular booklet on the Pitman Pottery, a manufacturing site dating from the late 1700s. The Discovery Program of the Winchester–Frederick County Public Schools sponsors a history program for elementary school students, using the Pitman site as a hands-on lesson in local heritage.

—Deborah Woodward

Winchester’s George Washington’s Office Museum

- Educating 1,350 area children about cultural heritage
- Attracting out-of-state visitors from all 50 states and 33 countries (45% of visitation)
- Attracting 25 volunteers from the community
- Gaining funding support from the city, in partnership with Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society
- Garnering extensive press coverage, community interest
- Raising awareness of site’s importance to community
- Educating area residents about the French and Indian War; only local site linked to this period
- Producing booklet about the history of the site

Results triggered by:

DHR state and national register, historic highway marker, TimeTravelers, Threatened Sites programs

Teachers Spark Excitement in Classrooms with Archaeology

Teachers who attended last summer's Teacher's Institute excitedly returned to their classrooms in the fall with lesson plans that engaged their students. Jointly sponsored by the Virginia Historical Society and the department, the institute immersed 16 teachers in exploring "history underfoot" during a two-week intensive program. Teachers examined the department's archaeological collections, participated in talks given by leading experts in Virginia's history and prehistory, and went on a one-week excavation at one of 11 sites around the state.

"I focused on the process of archaeology with my students," said Crystal DeLong of Staunton River Middle School. "I teach world history, and wanted to reinforce with my class the SOL of how archaeology affects our knowledge of the past. So I was able to use photographs from the actual dig I went on, and share personal experiences, which makes it so much more alive for them. And I can answer their questions first-hand!"

"I teach world history, and I wanted to reinforce with my class the SOL of how archaeology affects our knowledge of the past."

— Crystal DeLong, Staunton River Middle School

Jacquelyn Inge, a teacher at Pembroke Elementary School in Virginia Beach, said her attendance in the summer institute has really benefited her third grade students this year. "They are learning more about what life was like [for the Virginia Indians]. This will prepare them for what they will see at Jamestown next year."

Inge said that she was the only teacher from the Tidewater area to come to the institute this summer. "I've told everyone about it. It was exciting to me. I got a whole different perspective when I came—the whole concept that you are not digging up bones, but discovering the way people lived."

Cynthia Smith teaches at St. Gertrude's High School in Richmond. She had studied archaeology in college and found the summer Teacher's Institute "a wonderfully intensive refresher course."



DeLong and fellow teachers at archaeology field school.

She began the fall semester with a project that had the juniors following the steps an archaeologist would take to examine the findings in an excavation. "The students were fascinated with the detailed [analysis] and precision of archaeological research." Smith also recounted for her students a controversial case that University of Virginia Professor of Anthropology Dr. Jeffrey Hantman presented at the institute. "The 'Lost [Kennewick] Man' involved some human bones that were excavated in Washington. The Indians wanted them back, but the scientists wanted them, too."

Smith said these studies and her students' frequent trips each year to the Virginia Historical Society make them "well-versed in how interpretive history can be."

Teachers also have access to the Archaeological Resource Kit (ARK) that the department loans to schools free of charge. Following recent investigations of illegal disturbances of Native American burials in Wythe County, staff at Wytheville's Gibboney-Haller Rock House Museum actively promoted and distributed the ARK to Wythe County schools. The popularity of the kit led to requests for a formal education program based on the artifact collections held by the museum. Clayta Bryant, educational coordinator for the museum, worked with Roanoke regional office archaeologist Tom Klatka to complete an outline for a heritage education program for the county schools. The program is being developed for integration into the school curriculum this fall.

—Deborah Woodward

Revitalization Brings Life to Virginia Downtowns

Communities across Virginia are using preservation approaches to bring back and sustain their once-vibrant downtowns. Lynchburg, Hopewell, and Petersburg are facilitating revitalization in their downtowns through a variety of DHR programs including survey, register, tax credits, state grants, and easements. By tapping into these programs and incentives, the localities are working to create viable city cores that attract tourists, businesses, and residents.

Lynchburg

This year Lynchburg completed a cost-share partnership with DHR to conduct an architectural survey and to nominate a downtown historic district to the state and national historic registers. The district, listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register in December, is the city's primary location for government and professional businesses. "Our goal in registration was for property owners to become eligible for the tax credits as an incentive to rehabilitate their buildings," said Annette Chenault, a planner for the city. Once a building is listed on the registers it is eligible for rehabilitation tax credits and state preservation grants.

Putting Virginia's History to Work

Lynchburg

- Completed architectural survey of downtown
- Listed a downtown historic district on the Virginia Landmarks Register
- Planned city investment in design and economic revitalization
- Received \$500,000+ in preservation grants for Academy of Music rehab; easement donated
- Embarked on \$1 million restoration of key tourism landmarks

Results triggered by:

DHR cost share program, state and national registers, tax credit programs, state preservation grants, easements, staff technical assistance

Lynchburg's overall goal is a vital downtown with housing, entertainment, recreation, and shopping, said Rachel Flynn, director of community planning and development. "We are looking at design and economic revitalization to decide where the city should invest first with an eye toward 2007," Flynn said. That is when Lynchburg will celebrate its 250th anniversary, and its community leaders are determined to be ready.

The Academy of Music, listed on the registers in 1968, is poised to become one of Lynchburg's downtown cultural anchors. It is currently undergoing a multi-million-dollar rehabilitation, sponsored privately, to restore it as a fully functioning theater. The project, still in its early stages, has received more than \$500,000 through the state grants program, managed by DHR. A preservation easement was donated on the building this year.

"Our goal in registration was for property owners to become eligible for tax credits . . ."

— Anne Chenault, Lynchburg planner

In 2000, the city began a \$1 million restoration of its hallmark resource, Monument Terrace, located in the proposed historic district. This war memorial is one of Lynchburg's most popular resources, bringing visitors to the downtown.

Hopewell

With the strong support of city council, downtown merchants, and property owners, Hopewell began a cost-share partnership with DHR in 2000 to begin an architectural survey of its downtown commercial area. The project will nominate a downtown historic district to the state and national registers. A registered district brings the advantage of state and federal tax credits that act as an economic engine to encourage owners to invest in rehabilitating their properties.

"Hopewell is 10 square miles, so everything you do affects the whole town," said Mary Calos, of the Historic Hopewell Foundation. "Once one antique store opened downtown and was successful, others followed. Revitalization is the best commercial venture for our downtown."

Current Hopewell revitalization projects include a nonprofit organization's restoration of the Beacon Theatre, listed on the registers this year. Using state preservation grants over the past three years, the building is being restored to play a leading cultural role in the community. The theater will be protected in perpetuity by a preservation easement donated to the Commonwealth.

Another project that leveraged resources through preservation grants is Weston Manor, a historic house museum managed by the Historic Hopewell Foundation. The foundation received a grant for roof repair in 2000, further stabilizing one of the town's tourism resources.

Putting Virginia's History to Work

Hopewell

- Completed architectural survey of downtown commercial area
- Nominated district to state and national registers
- Aided in Beacon Theatre restoration by state preservation grants; easement donated
- Aided in ongoing rehabilitation of Weston Manor by preservation grant; easement to be donated
- Nominated and began rehabilitation of Mallomee School

Results triggered by:

DHR cost share program, state and national registers, state preservation grants, easements, staff technical assistance

The Mallomee School is soon to be one of Hopewell's newest reclaimed buildings. A consultant has begun work on the state and national register nomination for the building, and fundraising is also underway. The rehabilitated building will be a resource for the region as the Appomattox Regional Library Headquarters serving Hopewell and Prince George and Dinwiddie Counties.

Petersburg

In Petersburg's Old Town Historic District, made up of the central business district and nearby residential areas, six new private rehabilitation projects began in 2000. "All of the projects are applying for all of the available incentives. None of them could be done without the tax credits," Landon Wellford, city planner, said.

Property owners who take advantage of federal and state rehabilitation tax incentives can harness a 45% income tax credit. Contributing buildings within the historic district, listed on the state and national registers in 1979, are eligible. As further incentive, the city's real estate tax abatement program gives owners who rehabilitate a 10-year break from increasing property taxes.

Funding for revitalization of the Peabody-Williams School, located downtown, has been secured since its listing on the registers this year. The school was the first public building in Petersburg built exclusively as a high school for African-American students. Its listing galvanized school alumni to

renovate the landmark as a community and cultural center. Listing has also qualified the city to apply for and receive a \$50,000 matching preservation grant from the General Assembly for structural stabilization with technical assistance from DHR staff.

"Hopewell is 10 square miles, so everything you do affects the whole town. Once one antique store opened downtown and was successful, others followed."

—Mary Calos, Historic Hopewell Foundation

Two private rehabilitation projects began in the Folly Castle Historic District, listed on the registers in 1979, in the vicinity of the recently renovated Appomattox Regional Governor's School. To encourage more rehabilitations within the district, the city will give away buildings to owner occupants or sell them at a low cost, Wellford explained.

"The vision for downtown revitalization is niche retail, which does not compete with malls, that will become a destination point for families and visitors," Wellford said. This year Petersburg has seen results, with four new restaurants opening downtown.

—Katherine Harding

Putting Virginia's History to Work

Petersburg

- Began six private rehabilitation tax credit projects in Old Towne Historic District
- Began two private rehabilitation tax credit projects in Folly Castle Historic District; galvanized by rehab of Appomattox Governor's School
- Secured funding for revitalization of Peabody Williams School; listed on registers; received \$50,000 state preservation grant; eligible for tax credit

Results triggered by:

Survey, state and national registers, state and federal tax credit programs, state preservation grants

Land Acquisition for Parks, Education, and Tourism

In 2000, DHR staff members played a key role in the work of commissions and foundations involved in the acquisition of historic Civil War battlefields that will be preserved as educational and cultural assets, as critical open spaces, and that will become part of the infrastructure for travel and tourism over the next 10 to 20 years. The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District Commission concluded its work in devising a management plan to preserve, interpret, and educate the visiting public about what took place at 10 battlefields within 13 Valley localities. The Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation will carry out the implementation of the plan. The goal of the foundation is to acquire lands by voluntary means and, as they become available, place them under easement. Over the next 20 years, plans to interpret and educate the public about Civil War history will produce among these battlefields a major national and international tourism asset in what was a key theater of the war.

At the initiative of Governor Gilmore, and through a General Assembly appropriation of \$3.4 million, this year the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation, also staffed in part by DHR, allocated matching funds to localities and private preservation associations to acquire the Civil War battlefields of Brandy Station, Cedar Creek, Kernstown, and Third Winchester. Easements on battlefields, held by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, were accepted for Brandy Station, Cedar Creek, Cedar Mountain, Kernstown, and Third Winchester. The easements provide for review by DHR to ensure appropriate treatment of historic and archaeological resources.

In Brunswick County, staff archaeologists began a four-year research project at the 18th-century Fort Christanna, owned by the National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Virginia. DHR's focus on the site strengthened the local government's resolve to acquire 22 acres of land within the Fort Christanna Archaeological District, listed on the state and national registers in 1979. The county recently obtained a matching grant from the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation to protect the fort and its view sheds to the Meherrin River from incompatible use. The site contains the remains of a fort established by Governor Alexander Spotswood to protect British interests in the frontier fur trade. Here Spotswood sponsored a school for Indian children; the fort is now a proposed stop on the upcoming Civil Rights in Education Heritage Trail.

This summer's archaeological field school has generated interest in undertaking a countywide architectural survey under the auspices of the Brunswick County Historical Society. It set the stage for full-scale excavations next summer that will involve volunteers not only from the local community but also from around the country. Earthwatch, the renowned scientific institute that promotes international understanding of global environmental and social issues through public involvement in field research projects, agreed to provide partial funding and volunteers to support full-scale excavations at the fort over the next four years.

—Deborah Woodward

Navy Signs Model Programmatic Agreement

Last fall, the U.S. Navy's Atlantic Division signed an Agreement with the department and the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation that streamlines review of projects involving historic resources. A first for Virginia in its scope and purpose, the programmatic agreement won praise from the Advisory Council as a model for other branches of the military. Mike Newbill, regional historic preservation officer for the U.S. Navy said, "Several of the benefits are streamlined regulatory compliance, timely resolution of adverse effects, elimination of project delays, and minimization of potential conflicts with regulators."

Six Virginia naval installations fall under the agreement: the Norfolk Naval Base, including the Lafayette River Annex and St. Julien's Creek Annex; the Naval Air Station at Oceana; the Naval Weapons Station at Yorktown; and the Naval Auxiliary Landing Field at Fentress. Among the notable historic resources on the bases are 1907 Jamestown Exposition buildings, including a replica of Independence Hall; a 1918 baseball stadium, one of the oldest still standing in the eastern United States; and World War II sea and land plane hangars.

In addition to streamlining the review process, the agreement establishes an education component. The Navy set up a Web site in cooperation with the Hampton Roads Naval Museum to educate the public about the historic and architectural significance of its historic buildings and structures. Regular cultural resources management training sessions will be held for Navy personnel who manage and coordinate projects involving the Navy's historic properties.

—Deborah Woodward

Localities Sustain Resources for Community Benefit

Localities around Virginia are tapping into DHR's programs to plan for the future of their resources. From survey and registration to grants and other funding, private and public organizations are using the tools to sustain their resources and put them to work for community benefit.

Lee Memorial Park Listed on State Register

Lee Memorial Park, Petersburg, is Virginia's only surviving wildflower sanctuary, and it was listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register in December. The movement to list this significant resource was initiated by members of The Petersburg Garden Club who want to conserve and restore the overgrown park so that it can be fully enjoyed by the community.

The Garden Club partnered with DHR's capital region office and the city of Petersburg on the nomination of the park. "Listing it on the historic registers was the best way to offer some type of protection and call attention to the significance of the site," said Leslie Naranjo-Lupold, Garden Club member.

The 300-acre park was created during the Works Progress Administration. The only women's conservation project during that time, it was created by crews of African American and white women—a unique collaboration. The park featured an education center that drew students from around the country.

The park's designation provides an impetus for an official partnership with the city of Petersburg to better protect sensitive areas of the wildflower sanctuary and to raise funds to undertake the sorely needed conservation work, Naranjo-Lupold explained. "Being on the register will help with foundation funding because it demonstrates the park's significance," she said.

After initial conservation work is complete, the Garden Club plans to recreate the education center to reestablish the park as a national educational resource.

Boydton Partners in Survey

Boydton saved \$25,000 and completed much-needed historic preservation planning by partnering with the University of Virginia in 2000. Through the partnership, six UVA interns, led by DHR staff members, completed an architectural survey of the town. Surveys are typically

conducted by consultants and on average cost \$25,000. The students surveyed the town for free, making the project feasible for Boydton. In one week the students photographed and documented every historic building in town. "The architectural history SWAT team completed a concentrated survey that can be built upon," said Richard Guy Wilson, commonwealth professor and chair of Architectural History at UVA.

The material gathered in the survey is being used to develop Boydton's upcoming development plan as well as a historic district nomination to the state and national registers. The plan will likely encourage the use of state and federal tax credits for historic rehabilitations, incentives only available to resources listed individually on the registers or contributing to a district.

Lee Memorial Park

- Listed on Virginia Landmarks Register—Garden Club nominated to raise awareness, give significance
- Created partnership between Garden Club and city for future conservation and fundraising
- Began drive to restore major cultural asset and national education resource

Boydton Survey

- Partnered with UVA in architectural survey saving around \$25,000
- Generated info to nominate downtown historic district to state and national registers
- Implemented first steps to be eligible for tax credits and other revitalization incentives
- Stimulated similar projects in the region

Results triggered by:

DHR staff assistance, survey, state and national registers

Putting Virginia's History to Work

The long-range plan for the historic district is to revitalize the buildings and create a walking tour for visitors. "The most valuable asset we have is the historical significance of the town and the buildings," Mayor Charles Reamy said. "The survey goes hand-in-hand with our process of revitalizing downtown."

The partnership to complete the survey in Boydton raised awareness about the value of historic resources in several nearby communities. Clarksville is embarking on a full-scale survey of its historic resources and a historic district

nomination through DHR's cost share program. And the neighboring town of Appomattox is planning a similar partnership with UVA interns in 2001.

Suffolk Puts CLG Funds to Work

This year saw the rejuvenation Suffolk's Main Street Station. The more than \$500,000 rehabilitation of the station, owned by the Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society, turned the badly burned station into a museum that may include a visitors center.

The project is a culmination of the years of interest Suffolk has been generating through the department's Certified Local Government (CLG) program. Localities accepted into the federally funded program participate formally in a broad range of preservation programs and are eligible to apply for matching grants.

Since 1985, Suffolk has received CLG funding to survey and prepare a national register nomination for its downtown historic district, northern, and southern sections; prepare design guidelines; host a public information session; nominate four additional historic districts; complete an archaeological assessment; and create a preservation component for its comprehensive plan.

In 1997, Suffolk's CLG funds produced a national register nomination to expand the downtown historic district to include more resources. That made the train station eligible for a \$100,000 state matching preservation grant. The station is now protected by a preservation easement.

"The train station has fueled the preservation effort and changed the whole look of downtown," said Barbara McPhail, president of the Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society. Three more rehabilitations on Main Street are now underway.

—Katherine Harding

Toolbox Leaders Inform Their Communities

Take a look in Washington County and you will find a preservation-savvy board of supervisors. Or visit Henrico County and meet property owners who are informed about preservation programs. Community Awareness Campaign toolbox leaders and committees are on the move. Through outreach and training initiatives, they are putting the tools to sustain communities into the hands of citizens. Here is how they are doing it.

Rocco Tricarico, Northumberland County, met with leaders from 10 area preservation and historical organizations to explore the toolbox and meet DHR's Portsmouth staff. The attendees agreed to set as a goal developing Northumberland County as a tourism destination. "The immediate plan is to follow-up on how we, as the toolbox campaign says, can 'put our history to work' as income producing resources," Tricarico said. The group plans to approach the board of supervisors about the county becoming a Certified Local Government.



Russell Darden uses the ARK to teach Boy Scouts about their heritage.

Russell Darden, toolbox leader and 48-year member of the Archeological Society of Virginia, spread the word about archaeology and historic preservation in nearly 50 presentations reaching some 2,000 people across Virginia and the nation. "I give so many presentations because I believe preservation and education are so important," Darden said. "With better understanding, we can appreciate our heritage." Darden introduces archaeology to children and adults through the ARK—the department's Archaeological Resource Kit, gives tours of archaeological sites such as Cactus Hill, and often tells the story of the First Virginians.

In Washington County, toolbox leader Betsy White brought preservation benefits straight to the source—the board of supervisors. White asked John Kern, director of the Roanoke regional office, to inform the board about the smart growth benefits of preservation. The presentation outlined steps for the county to capitalize on its historic resources and served as the first official action of the Washington County Historic Preservation Advisory Board. "Our goals of orienting the board of supervisors and providing a statewide context to consider our resources were met with vigor!" White said.

—Katherine Harding



Support Historic Preservation – Check That Box on Your Income Tax Return

This year as you file your state income tax return, please take a moment to check off the box that enables you to make a donation to Virginia's Historic Preservation Fund. Legislation passed by the General Assembly created this important option to provide a convenient way to support heritage education, landmark preservation, and the operation of historic sites. The fund is administered by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, and all donations are fully tax deductible. Deductions can be claimed in the following year. For your support, we thank you!

Central Office:

2801 Kensington Ave.
Richmond, VA 23221
(804) 367-2323
(804) 367-2391 (Fax)

Roanoke Region Office:

1030 Penmar Avenue, SE
Roanoke, VA 24013
(540) 857-7585
(540) 857-7588 (Fax)

Capital Region Office:

19 B Bollingbrook Street
Petersburg, VA 23803
(804) 863-1620
(804) 863-1627 (Fax)

Winchester Region Office:

107 N. Kent Street, Suite 203
Winchester, VA 22601
(540) 722-3427
(540) 722-7535 (Fax)

Portsmouth Region Office:

612 Court Street, 3rd floor
Portsmouth, VA 23704
(757) 396-6707
(757) 396-6712 (Fax)

Visit DHR on the web at www.dhr.state.va.us

Preservation in Progress is published by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Editor: Deborah Woodward; Assistant Editor: Katherine Harding; Copyeditor: John Salmon.

Preservation in Progress was financed in part with federal funds from the U.S. Department of the Interior, through the Department of Historic Resources, Commonwealth of Virginia. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or disability in its federally assisted programs. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program or activity described herein, or if you desire further information, please write to: Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. The contents and opinions of this book do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior; nor does any mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendations by the Department of the Interior. The Virginia Department of Historic Resources, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, will make this publication available in braille, large print, or audiotope upon request. Please allow four to six weeks for delivery.

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue

Richmond, VA 23221

PRESORTED

STANDARD

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

RICHMOND, VA

PERMIT NO. 591